

MINUTES

MILWAUKIE CITY COUNCIL WORKS SESSION

JULY 19, 2005

Mayor Bernard called the work session to order at 6:40 p.m. in the City Hall Conference Room.

Council present: Councilors Barnes, Collette, and Stone.

Staff present: City Manager Mike Swanson; City Attorney Gary Firestone; Community Development/Public Works Director Kenny Asher; Engineering Director Paul Shirey; Community Services Director JoAnn Herrigel; and Information Coordinator Grady Wheeler.

Public Input Process for Riverfront Concept Plan

Ms. Herrigel understood that Council decided to pull this item and would consider it at the August 2, 2005 work session. She provided copies of the two concept plans and discussed the proposed public information process scheduled to begin during Riverfest. Councilor Loomis, who could not attend this work session, recommended that nothing go out to the public if it was not done right. She asked Council for direction on what she should or should not show at Riverfest.

Councilor Stone thought that only the projects underway should be shown.

Ms. Herrigel suggested using the same boards and handouts that were developed for the Sunday Market Community Booth. She was agreeable to holding off on the showing the Riverfront Park Concept Plans at Riverfest.

Mayor Bernard pointed out that Riverfest was one of the few times that large numbers of people were brought together at the Park and expressed some concerns about missing the opportunity. He offered to make announcements inviting the public to the August 2 work session and informing them of the upcoming public input process.

Councilor Collette agreed Riverfest was a tremendous opportunity and was not sure why this was so controversial. It would be a good chance to simply say to the public that these were the ideas on the table and that neither was the final option. On one hand, she respected Councilor Loomis' concerns, but, on the other, she would regret missing the opportunity.

Councilor Stone replied if she did not know what was going on in the City, then she would not understand this was just a piece of the broader development. She agreed there should be some mention of the ongoing process and that it would come before the City Council very soon with an extensive public input process. She did not like to knee-jerk react to things. She understood the interest in

taking advantage of the venue, but many of the people who went to Riverfest did not live in Milwaukie. She thought there were other opportunities to gather public input.

Mayor Bernard agreed, but there were few chances for a mayor to address so many people at one time. Having been the Riverfront Board Chair seven years ago, he could assure the Council that this was not a knee-jerk reaction. Many people had been involved in the process. One of the concepts was adopted in the Downtown Plan, and the other was an amendment or another scheme to consider. Personally, he did not want to see any parking on the riverfront and would be 100% behind finding another way to provide parking. He thought the proposals needed some tweaking.

Councilor Stone recommended that the City Council have a work session.

Mayor Bernard thought with appropriate signage that people could just be invited to look at the concepts and start thinking about what they would like to see. He wanted to hear what people thought about the boat ramp.

Councilor Stone agreed with Ms. Herrigel about showing what was happening now and what would be coming shortly.

Ms. Herrigel said there was already an adopted Plan, and there were environmental and topographical constraints on the property. If people were asked an open-ended question, then the Council would have to be prepared to deal with that input. She suggested a handout that told people to expect a survey in the mail or who to call for more information. She provided board with the two concept plans, an aerial of the existing uses, and the Comprehensive Plan. As Councilor Loomis had pointed out, the City Council would not have a chance to look at this until after Riverfest. She sought Council direction on what, if anything, to take to Riverfest. She could prepare some kind of announcement of the upcoming public input process that encouraged participation.

Councilors Barnes and Collette supported that suggestion.

Mayor Bernard suggested that the adopted Plan should have some prominence and people should be asked for input on how it might be changed.

Councilor Collette believed Ms. Herrigel made a good point about putting some parameters on input.

Councilor Stone noted that the Comprehensive Plan showed the park without a boat ramp. People might be stirred up if they were not shown the other two concepts.

Mayor Bernard commented that there was not a big fight when that Plan was adopted.

Councilor Barnes understood the Riverfront Board had two unique ideas, so it was not a cut-and-dried situation. She thought it would make more sense to wait until the Council understood why the Board had two different proposals.

Councilor Stone suggested a brochure that listed the projects happening in Milwaukie along with what would soon be taking place.

The group discussed the format of the informational material. The Council agreed to consider the concept plans at its August 2 work session.

Mayor Bernard adjourned the work session at 6:55 p.m.

Pat DuVal

Pat DuVal, Recorder